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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, UY
SUBJECT: SOLUTION OF MITRIONE MURDER CASE ANNOUNCED

CINCSO FOR POLAD

DEPT PASS OPS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 19, THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE JOINT POLICE/MILITARY FORCES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CLARIFYING THE MURDER OF USAID CHIEF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER, DAN A. MITRIONE BY MLN/"TUPAMARO" TERRORISTS IN AUGUST 1970. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT COMMUNIQUE: ON JULY 31, 1970, AS A RESULT OF AN INTENTIONAL AUTOMOBILE COLLISION, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED MLN "TUPAMAROS" STOPPED THE AUTOMOBILE IN WHICH THE CHIEF OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, MR. DAN ANTHONY MITRIONE, WAS TRAVELING. AFTER DISABLING THE DRIVER, THEY KIDNAPPED MR. MITRIONE.

3. INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT MR. MITRIONE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO A CLANDESTINE MLN SAFEHOUSE AT 4115 CENTENARIO AVE-

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NUE. (THIS HIDING PLACE WAS DISCOVERED BY SECURITY FORCES ON JUNE 13, 1971).

4. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 10, 1970, THE LIFELESS BODY OF MR. MITRIONE WAS DISCOVERED INSIDE AN ABANDONED AUTOMOBILE AT THE CORNER OF LUCAS MORENO AND CORONEL LASALA STREETS. HE WAS GAGGED, MANACLED AND HAD BEEN SHOT THREE TIMES.

5. THIS MLN OPERATION WAS A PART OF THE TERRORISTS' SELECTIVE PLAN OF ACTION. ON THE SAME DATE THE BRAZILIAN CONSUL, MR. ALOISIO MARCOS DIAZ GOMIDE WAS KIDNAPPED AND A SIMILAR ACT ATTEMPTED AGAINST THE SECOND SECRETARY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, MR. GORDON JONES, WHO SHOWED EXCELLENT PRESENCE OF MIND AND COURAGE AT A MOMENT WHEN THE KIDNAPPERS WERE CARELESS, AND JUMPED OUT OF THE VEHICLE IN WHICH HE WAS BEING TRANSPORTED. DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS GAGGED AND HIS HANDS, ARMS AND FEET TIED, HE MANAGED TO JIMP TO THE STREET AND ESCAPE FROM HIS CAPTORS.

6. AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DETAINED MEMBERS OF THE SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION, IT IS NOW KNOWN THAT THE CRIME WAS PLANNED BY THE MLN'S COLUMN 15 COMMAND. THESE PLANNERS WERE:

ARMANDO BLANCO KATRAS, ALIAS "JOAQUIN", KILLED BY MEMBERS OF THE JOINT SECURITY FORCES IN AN ARMED CONFRONTATION. THIS INDIVIDUAL MASTERMINDED THE KIDNAPPING OPERATION;

RODOLFO WOLF, ALIAS "HECTOR", PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY;

HENRY ENGLIER GOLOVCHENKO, ALIAS "OCTVAIO", RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MILITARY CELL OF COLUMN 15. ENGLER MASTERMINDED THE MURDER. HE IS PRESENTLY IN COSTODY.

7. HENRY ENGLER PROVIDED THE WEAPONS TO BE USED FOR THE MURDER TO ANTONIO MAS MAS, ALIAS "CARLOS", AT A MEETING HELD IN THE VICINTY OF JOSE BATLLE Y ORDONEZ AND GENERAL FLORES STREETS. (ANTONIO MAS MAS IS PRESENTLY IN CUSTODY.) AT THIS MEETING, MAS MAS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JORGE PEREIRA MENA, ALIAS "ELEJANDRO", A "TUPAMARO" ALSO IN CUSTODY. AT A LATER MEETING, PEREIRA MENA AND MAS MAS CONTRACTED THE SERVICES OF YET ANOTHER "TUPAMARO" WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS EURELIO A. FERNANDEZ

PENA. (FERNANDEZ PENA WAS ALSO KILLED IN AN ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE JOINT SECURITY FORCES).

8. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 10, 1970, ANTONIO MAS MAS AND JORGE PEREIRA MENA ARRIVED AT A PREDESIGNATED LOCATION WHERE AURELIO FERNANDEZ PENA AWAITED IN AN AUTOMOBILE. THE THREE DROVE TO ANOTHER PREDESIGNATED LOCATION WHERE THE KIDNAPPED VICTIM WAS TURNED OVER TO THEM.

9. AS THE THREE DROVE AWAY, MAS MAS, WHO TRAVELED IN THE BACK SEAT WITH DAN A. MITRIONE, FIRED THE FATAL SHOTS. THE VICTIM'S EYES WERE COVERED AND HE WAS GAGGED AND MANACLED. THE VEHICLE WAS THEN DRIVEN TO THE AFOREMENTIONED LOCATION WHERE IT WAS ABANDONED.

10. HENRY ENGLER STATES THAT HE WAS THE COMMANDER OF COLUMN 15 AFTER THESE EVENTS OCCURRED. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE CONFESSIONS OF THE "TUPAMAROS" REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT AND ESPECIALLY THAT OF ANTONIO MAS MAS, ENGLER IS IDENTIFIED AS A COMMAND MEMBER OF COLUMN 15 AND THE SPECIFIC COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY CELL OF THAT COLUMN. AS SUCH, HE IS NOW ACCUSED OF ORDERING THE CRIME TO BE EXECUTED. END COMMUNIQUE - END UNCLASSIFIED

11. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE GOU WILL BE PROVIDING A DETAILED CASE SUMMARY ON THE MITRIONE CASE TO THE EMBASSY. BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE IT APPEARS MITRIONE CASE ESSENTIALLY HAS BEEN CLARIFIED. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON MININTERIOR COL POLENTINI ON MARCH 21 TO EXPRESS MY GRATIFICATION THAT CRIME APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAKE SIMILAR EXPRESSION EITHER TO AMB. LUISI OR BY SENDING ME MESSAGE TO CONVEY TO GOU.

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